LIGHTNING COMICS

#1

$1.75

Jan.
1987

A.C.T.I.O.N. FORCE

Greetings from the newest comic book publishing company on the block: LIGHTNING COMICS.

This month you'll be seeing the first issues of our titles A.C.T.I.O.N. FORCE and HEROIC. It is our sincere hope that you will purchase them, not just for the sake of some speculation possibilities, but, for plain old simple enjoyment.

I'd like to thank those who helped me by way of their suggestions and assistance, so take a bow Rich Maurizio, Tim Corrigan, Brian Waters and Tom Ahearn.

A special thanks to my wife Connie, sons Jimmy and Joey, and all my friends and relatives who are always there when needed the most.

On an undertaking such as this, it's comforting to know that these people such as these still in the world to lend their help and their support.

It has always been a dream of mine to publish comics. Today, with a staff of talented individuals, along with those mentioned above, I am finally realizing that goal.

I truly hope that you, the reader, will find it all worthwhile.

Sincerely,
Jim Main
Publisher

A.C.T.I.O.N. FORCE

Creator/Writer: Jim Main
Penciller: Gordon Purcell
Inks (pgs. 1-15) Steve Shipley and Gordon Purcell.
Inks (pgs. 16-28) Steve Shipley
Letterer: Steve Shipley

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STUART TO BASE-- --COME IN BASE!!
JACOBS HERE.. HOW'S THE WEATHER, STU?
JUST WAIT 'TIL YOUR PATROL, PAL! ANY ACTIVITY? AS IF I DIDN'T KNOW!
"SAME OLD THING-"
"SNOW-"
-- SNOW---
"-TANKS-"
"-WHA?"
-EH-- SAY AGAIN, STU?
TANKS--- THREE OF THEM! CAN YOU SEE THEM?
YEAH- GOT 'EM! THEY'RE --CRIPES--
--THEY'RE JUST ABOVE THE RIDGE!
HOW'D THEY GET IN SO CLOSE? STU--- ANY MARKINGS?

THIS IS ICEHOUSE TO SANTA CLAUS--HAVE THREE VISITORS AT CLOSE RANGE!
WHY ATTACK US? WE'RE AN OBSERVATION POST!
BEATS ME! THIS WONT DO FOR RELATIONS THOUGH!
IT'S OUR RUSSIAN FRIENDS! DONT LOOK FRIENDLY! MAKE THE CALL GUYS!
--LOOK UNFRIENDLY-- DEFINITELY SOVIET!
GET OUT OF THE BASE, GUYS- --I THINK THEY'RE GONNA---!
NO--- NO---
NOOOO--!

LOUSY SONS OF...
THEY WANT A FIGHT.. I'LL GIVE THEM ONE!
NOW I'LL... WHAT?... THEY'RE...
THEY'RE FADING -- WELL, NOT BEFORE I CAN....
--GET ONE!!
BULLSEYE!!
THAT WAS FOR YOU GUYS!!

NOTHING HERE--
-OR HERE! HOW ABOUT YOU EAGLE!
NOTHING!
WAIT A MINUTE---
WHAT HAVE WE HERE? WOLF--!!
YA--- WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND, EAGLE?
SOMEONE OR SOMETHING WHOSE WARRANTY EXPIRED! CHECK IT OUT!
I AM SURE THE COMMANDER HIMSELF WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO "CHECK IT OUT!"
FZZZZK!!
OKAY, CREW---- PACK-UP---!
WE'RE GOING BACK UPSTAIRS!

SOON--ABOVE THE EARTH---
IT'S INCREDIBLE!!
SIMPLY INCREDIBLE! THE WORK--- THE DETAIL---IN THIS ARM OUTDATES WHAT WE'VE DONE BY YEARS!
A GENIUS DESIGNED THIS, I CAN TELL YOU!
WELL--THAT DOESN'T HELP US MUCH, DOC!
WE WERE HOPING FOR MORE INFO!
WELL--IT DIDN'T COME WITH A SERIAL NUMBER, GENTLEMEN! YOU REALLY SHOULD CONSULT AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF ROBOTIC AND CYBERNETIC ENGINEERING!
WHO ARE YOU SUGGESTING?
PROF. NATHAN WALLACE--- CURRENT LOCATION IS KENYA, AFRICA---- ANY FUTHER INFORMATION, SIR?
WHAT TIME DO YOU GET OFF DUTY?

EAGLE AND WOLF ARE CALLED TO THE CONTROL ROOM---
YOU WANTED TO SEE US, SIR?
GIVE ME AS MUCH INFORMATION AS YOU CAN ON THE SUBJECT!
YES, COMMANDER!
WHAT DID HAYDEN TELL YOU ABOUT THE ARM?
HE SUGGESTED WE GET AN EXPERT OPINION--THAT OF A PROF. WALLACE!
INFORMATION CONFIRMS HIS WHEREABOUTS TO BE IN KENYA---IN A SMALL ISOLATED AREA!
-VIRTUALLY OUT OF TOUCH!
WELL--GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM!
I DONT LIKE THE WAY THINGS LOOK ABOUT THIS ATTACK! WE MAY HAVE PREVENTED A WAR BY OUR TIMELY INTERVENTION!
LET'S GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS---BEFORE SOMETHING ELSE HAPPENS!
OPERATIVE CARLIN--CODE GREEN! ALERT ALL MAIN FORCE AGENTS TO STANDBY FOR PICK-UP!
YES, SIR!

"AGENT FOX IS ON ASSIGNMENT FOR--"
EXCUSE ME, DEAR--- I SEE SOMEONE I KNOW!
"NEVER MIND, JUST CONTACT HER AND CONVEY MY APOLOGIES TO THE P.M."
GO RIGHT AHEAD- JUST DONT BE TOO LONG!!

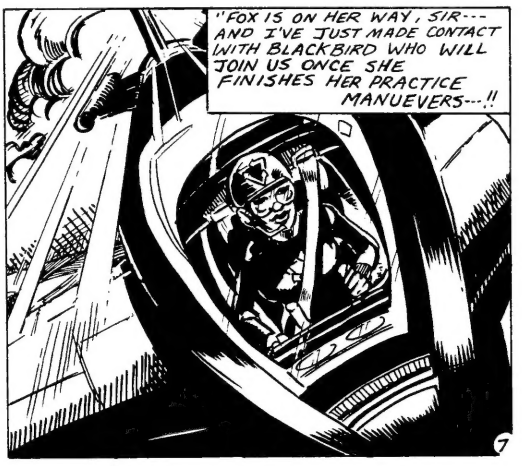
DID YOU BRING IT?
WE HAVE IT!
DO YOU HAVE THE MONEY?

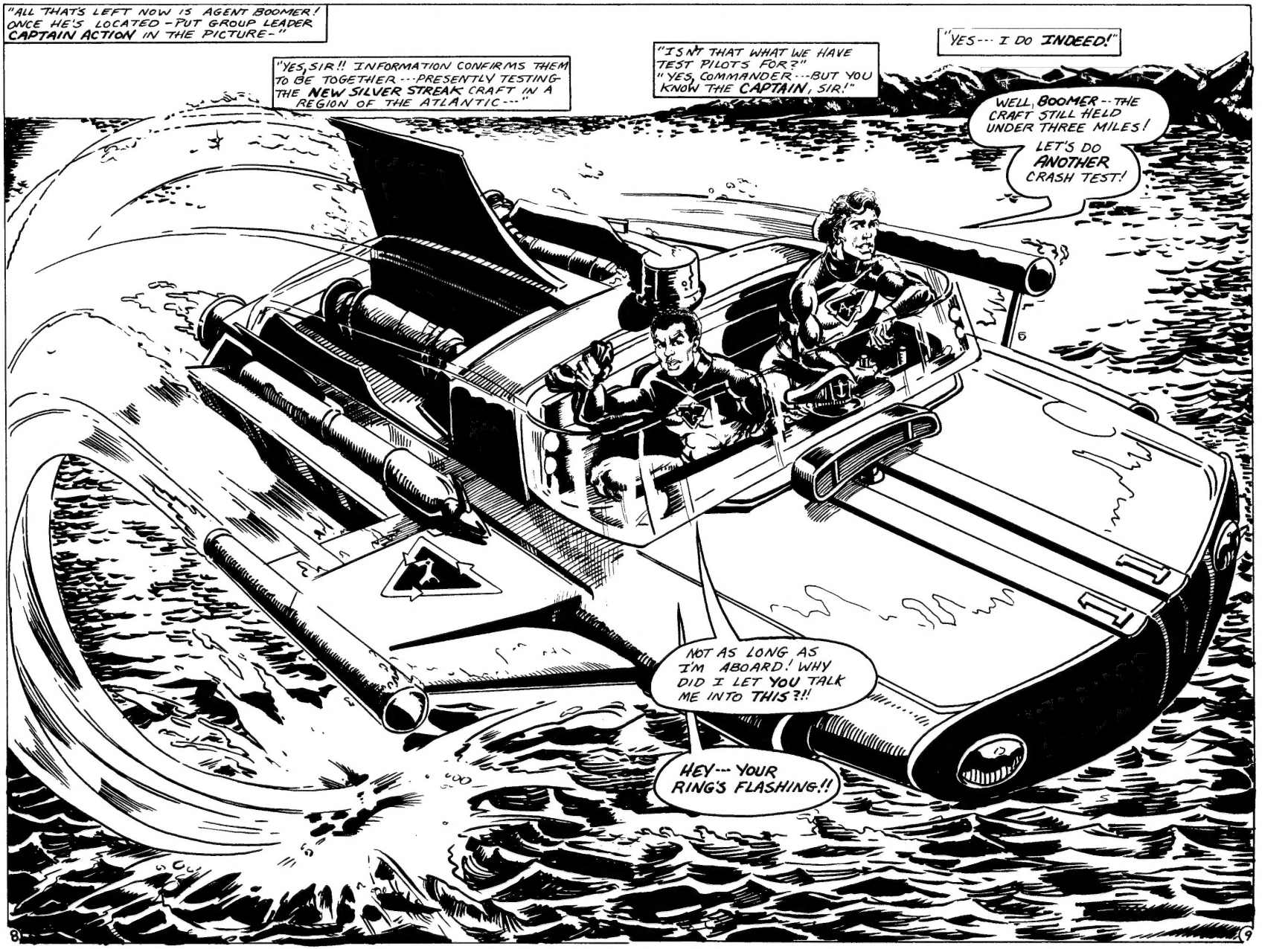
LET ME SEE THE MERCHANDISE FIRST!
--- NOW THE PAYMENT--- QUICKLY!!

IS THIS QUICK ENOUGH?!

NOW IN THE ROOM--- BOTH OF YOU!!
OH, BROTHER--- I'VE GOT A BLOODY RUN IN MY STOCKING!!

WELL, THAT SHOULD---
HMMM- A CALL FROM ACTION-
-BETTER TAKE IT ELSE WHERE!!


"FOX IS ON HER WAY, SIR--- AND I'VE JUST MADE CONTACT WITH BLACKBIRD WHO WILL JOIN US ONCE SHE FINISHES HER PRACTICE MANUEVERS---!!


"ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW IS AGENT BOOMER! ONCE HE'S LOCATED - PUT GROUP LEADER CAPTAIN ACTION IN THE PICTURE-"
"YES, SIR!! INFORMATION CONFIRMS THEM TO BE TOGETHER --- PRESENTLY TESTING THE NEW SILVER STREAK CRAFT IN A REGION OF THE ATLANTIC---"
"ISN'T THAT WHAT WE HAVE TEST PILOTS FOR?" "YES, COMMANDER --- BUT YOU KNOW THE CAPTAIN, SIR!"
"YES --- I DO INDEED!"
WELL, BOOMER -- THE CRAFT STILL HELD UNDER THREE MILES! LET'S DO ANOTHER CRASH TEST!
NOT AS LONG AS I'M ABOARD! WHY DID I LET YOU TALK ME INTO THIS?!!
HEY --- YOUR RING'S FLASHING!!
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THEY MUST BE ASSEMBLING THE FORCE! CAPTAIN ACTION HERE---
CONDITION GREEN--CAPTAIN!! PREPARE CRAFT FOR TRANSMITTER BEAM!
ROGER---SEE YOU UPSTAIRS!
SAVED BY THE RING! SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE!
IT USUALLY IS---
WE'LL KNOW--
-SOON ENOUGH!
WELL-- WE'RE HERE!
WHEW! FROM DEEP SEA -TO DEEP SPACE ALL IN A MATTER OF SECONDS!
I'LL NEVER GET USED TO IT, CAP!!
ALL KEY A.C.T.I.O.N. FORCE MEMBERS ASSEMBLE IN CONFERANCE ROOM!
IN ALL THE YEARS I'VE BEEN WITH THE FORCE -- I NEVER HAVE!
THE ELEVATOR TUBE SHOULD GET US THERE FAST ENOUGH!
WELL-- THERE GOES MY STOMACH AGAIN!

WELL GENTLEMEN--AT LAST! NOW IF YOU'LL ALL BE SEATED--THE MEETING WILL COMMENCE!!
YES SIR! HELLO CREW!
GOOD TO SEE YOU, SIR.!!
CAPTAIN!
DASVADANYA, CAPTAIN!!
THE CONFERENCE WILL NOW COME TO ORDER--FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA---
COMMANDER-?
YES--BLACKBIRD!
SHOULDN'T WE WAIT UNTIL AGENT SHARK ARRIVES?!
HELLO, CHRIS-LUV---
I'VE MISSED YOU!
NOT NOW-RONNIE!
AGENT SHARK WON'T BE ARRIVING!
HE'S DEAD!

"HE WAS KILLED ON A MISSION-
-THIS MORNING-HE WAS A GOOD MAN-
"HE WAS A GOOD AGENT--HE KNEW ALL THE RISKS INVOLVED AS A MEMBER OF THE FORCE!"
"ESPECIALLY THIS, IT'S TOP UNIT---AND LIKE ALL OF US-"
"-HE WAS EXPENDIBLE! HIS REPLACEMENT WILL BE CHOSEN SOON!"
"I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO RELAY THIS TO YOU--ESPECIALLY NOW!"
BLACKBIRD, I'M TAKING YOU OFF THE MISSION!
WE HAVE A SERIOUS MISSION TO UNDERTAKE!!
I CAN'T HAVE IT JEPARDISED BY AN EMOTIONALLY OVERRAUGHT AGENT!

SIR?!
COMMANDER, I OBJECT!
WHAT?!

SIR-NONE OF US ARE MACHINES! SPEAKING ON AGENT BLACKBIRD'S BEHALF--I CAN GUARANTEE SHE'LL BE FINE--
-SHE'S ALWAYS PULLED HER WEIGHT--AS YOU WELL KNOW!

FINE THEN CAPTAIN--
THE RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE YOURS!
DON'T MUCK IT UP!

NOW THAT THAT'S OVER-LET'S GET TO THE MATTER AT HAND--
-OR ARM I SHOULD SAY!!
ACTIVATE THE WALL SCREEN!

THIS CYBERNETIC LIMB WAS FOUND BY OUR SURVEY TEAM AFTER WE SHORTLY ARRIVED AT A U.S. OBSERVATION BASE IN ALASKA! WE INTERCEPTED A DISTRESS CALL THEY TRANSMITTED! THE MESSAGE SAID THEY WERE BEING APPROACHED BY THREE SOVIET TANKS!

ONCE OUR GROUP ARRIVED-THE BASE WAS DEMOLISHED THERE WAS RUBBLE FROM ONE OF THE TANKS AS WELL---ONE MAN AT THE BASE MANAGED TO TAKE ONE OF THEM OUT!!

ONE PUZZLING THING IS THAT THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THESE OTHER TWO TANKS--OR TRACKS! AND WE WERE THERE WITHIN TWO MINUTES OF THAT TRANSMISSION PICK-UP!
NOW--WHAT DOES THAT SUGGEST TO YOU?
EITHER VERY FAST TANKS--
-OR THEY HAVE TRANSMATTER CAPABILITIES!
SIR, THAT'S--
--NOT IMPOSSIBLE! OUR SECRETS ARE CLASSIFIED--BUT WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE HAS COME UP WITH A SIMILAR METHOD? DIFFERANT PRINCIPLES-BUT ULTIMATELY THE SAME RESULTS!
WE'RE UP AGAINST A TRUE GENIUS HERE--
OH--AND THAT'S NOT ALL--
-SCREEN!
OTHER BITS AND PIECES WERE BROUGHT BACK BY OUR SURVEY UNIT!
--ENOUGH! SO THAT OUR SCIENTIST'S COULD PUT THIS 'TTLE DIAGRAM TOGETHER!
YES--THAT ARM WE DISCOVERED WAS JUST PART OF A COMPLETE UNIT!
A RATHER FRIGHTENING LITTLE PICTURE!!
-FILE-
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WE'VE STUDIED THIS EVEN FURTHER--THE OUTER CASING, AS WELL AS THE INTERIOR SKELETAL ARMATURE, IS MADE OF SOME PRETTY IMPENETRABLE ALLOY!
NOT EVEN OUR LASERS COULD GET THROUGH IT---
WITHOUT A PROPER DEFENSE -- WHY, AN ARMY OF THESE THINGS WOULD BE UNSTOPPABLE!!
WELL-CAPTAIN--- WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?
WELL, FIRST OFF.. I THINK WE CAN RULE THIS OUT AS BEING A SOVIET ACTION! THEY HAD NOTHING TO GAIN FROM THIS ATTACK!!

AND THOUGH THEIR TECHNOLOGY IS SUPERIOR TO OURS IN WAYS-- I DON'T THINK THEY'RE CAPABLE OF THIS YET.!!
NO SIR--- SOMEONE ELSE IS RESPONSIBLE.!!
BUT IT WAS MADE TO LOOK LIKE A SOVIET ATTACK!!
THANK-YOU, CAPTAIN.!!

VERY WELL, CAPTAIN! AND, AS USUAL, WHAT YOU SAY GOES FOR THE GROUP AS WELL! THE PRESIDENT, AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE COMMITTEE HAS GIVEN US A WEEK TO SORT THINGS OUT!
ALL NEWS ON THE MATTER WILL BE WITHELD UNTIL THEN!
ALREADY WE HAVE TOP MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO WANT TO KNOW THINGS!
WE NEED ANSWERS!
--AND FAST! CONTROL, HAS CONTACT BEEN MADE WITH THAT PROF. WALLACE YET?
NO SIR! BUT WE DID GET A MAP REFERENCE!
GOOD WORK!!
I WANT YOU TO LOCATE THIS WALLACE FELLOW! HE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH A DETERANT FROM THESE THINGS IF THE SITUATION ARISES!
YES COMMANDER! BOOMER--FOX-- IF YOU'D LIKE TO ACCOMPANY ME!
AND US- SIR?
CHECK OUT THAT MAN YOU RESCUSED AT THE BASE----
HE MAY BE ABLE TO TELL US SOMETHING!
YES--SIR--!

AND AS THE FORCE BEGINS TO EMBARK ON THEIR SEPERATE ASSIGNMENTS----
MORNING CLAIR! HOW'S HE DOING TODAY?
WELL---HIS VITALS ARE UP! HE HAS YET TO AWAKEN THOUGH!
I KNOW HOW HE FEELS---- JOIN ME FOR COFFEE?
HMMM--OKAY! BUT JUST FOR A FEW MINUTES, DAN!
NOW SIS---I'M SURE YOU'LL GET A HEADLINE SOON--- YOU JUST NEED A BIG BREAK!
YEAH! BUT HOW LONG BEFORE I GET THAT "BIG BREAK," MIKE!

I DON'T KNOW--HEY-HEY YOU!
HEY PAL----ARE YOU OKAY?
--DEAD THEY'RE ALL DEAD!
-MAYBE WE SHOULD---
HERE, SIT DOWN! HAVE SOME COFFEE!
-DEAD--BASE DESTROYED!
WHAT BASE? WHO DESTROYED IT, SOLDIER?
ICE HOUSE 2----
-OBSERVATION BASE---
--TANKS CAME--
SOVIET TANKS!
SOVIET TANKS IN ALASKA?
IN ALASKA--
--MIKE?
THAT'S WHERE ICE HOUSE 2 IS!
WAS! BUT I GOT ONE OF THOSE TANKS BEFORE THEY ALL DISSAPEARED!
THAT'S A WILD STORY MISTER---!
OH, MR. STUART--- THERE YOU ARE!!

YOU MUSTN'T BOTHER OTHERS WITH YOUR STORIES!
TIME TO GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM!
YA--COME WITH US PLEASE!!
STORIES--? YOU MEAN--?
MR. STUART HERE IS A SPECIAL PATIENT!
NO WAIT--- I REMEMBER YOU-- YOU WERE AT THE BASE RIGHT AFTER---
-AFTER THE ATTACK! AFTER THE SOVIETS ATTACKED THE BASE!
OH, ORDERLY---
COME ALONG COMRADE STUART!
YOU'RE GETTING ALL WORKED UP FOR NOTHING STUART!
HEY--THAT BIG GUY EVEN TALKS RUSSIAN!
HE SURE DOES!
YEAH--MAYBE THAT STUART GUY AINT SO CRAZY!
YOU WERE THERE TOO!
YOU'RE PROBABLY IN WITH THOSE MURDERING SOVIETS!
THE NATIVES ARE GETTING RESTLESS!
EAGLE, LETS--!
YOU TAKE STUART AND GET OUT OF HERE! I'LL HANDLE THIS MYSELF!
BY WHAT AUTHORITY ARE YOU TAKING THAT MAN?!
YEAH--JUST WHO ARE YOU?
LETS SEE SOME IDENTIFICATION!
IDENTIFICATION?
NO PROBLEM!
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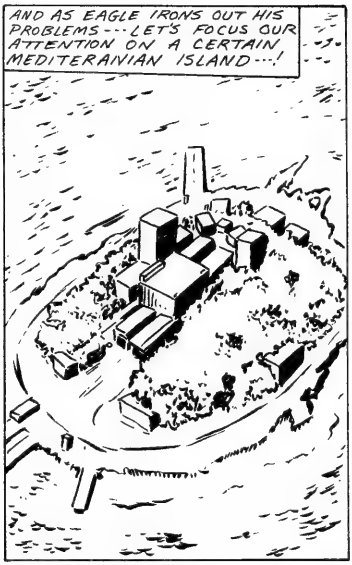
AND AS EAGLE IRONS OUT HIS PROBLEMS---LET'S FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON A CERTAIN, MEDITERANIAN ISLAND---!

I MUST SAY, DOCTOR, WHEN YOU FIRST APPROACHED ME AND TOLD ME OF HOW YOU COULD HELP IN MY PLANS OF GLOBAL DOMINATION- I THOUGHT YOU WERE A FOOL!

BUT NOW---- ALL THIS- I AM VERY IMPRESSED!

THE MANUFACTURING OF YOUR OWN PRIVATE--VIRTUALLY INDESTRUCTABLE ARMY IS JUST A MERE FRACTION OF WHAT I CAN DO, COL. VULCAN!

TOGETHER-- WITH YOUR RESOURCES AND MY GENIUS---YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL CAN AND WILL BE REALIZED!
YES--- BUT NOT AS QUICKLY AS WE THOUGHT! YOUR FIRST PLAN HAS FAILED TO GENERATE ANY ACTION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND RUSSIA!

YES!! AND THE LOSS OF THE TANK AND IT'S DRIVER WAS VERY MUCH A SURPRISE TO ME, TOO!
APPARENTLY IT WAS ATTACKED DURING IT'S TIME OF RETRIEVAL---A PERIOD WHEN IT'S AT IT'S WEAKEST STATE --- DUE TO IT'S MOLECULAR INSTABILITY!
YOU MUST SEEK TO REMEDY THIS---
I WANT NO WEAK SPOTS IN MY ARMY!
NOW SINCE THE NEWS MEDIA HAS MADE NO MENTION OF A SOVIET ATTACK-- WE CAN ONLY ASSUME IT'S BEEN SUPRESSED---
YOU WON'T BE!! SINCE OUR FIRST PLAN HAS FAILED TO START A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE SUPER-POWERS --I HAVE COME UP WITH ANOTHER PLAN!!
-AND IS PROBABLY UNDER INVESTIGATION!
WE MUST PROCEED WITH CAUTION, DR. I CANNOT BE SUSPECTED OF ANY INVOLVEMENT YET!
-THEN INITIATE IT!
LET'S NOT WASTE ANOTHER MINUTE'S TIME FROM MY GOAL'S REALIZATION, DR.
YES-- COL. VULCAN!!
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COLONEL --COLONEL VUL--
--CAN--UHHH!!
WHAT IS WRONG, SQUIRES?
YOU STARTLED ME!! I HAVE TO FIND COL. VULCAN--- I HAVE AN URGENT MESSAGE--FOR THE COLONEL ONLY!
WHAT IS THE MESSAGE, SQUIRES?
I TOLD YOU--- --IT WAS FOR------
YES--?
--WE MADE A BACKGROUND CHECK ON YOU, DR-- AS THE COLONEL REQUESTED!
REALLY---? --AND WHAT DID YOUR FINDINGS DISCLOSE?
INFORMATION ON YOU IS COMPLETELY NON-EXISTENT DOCTOR!

WE MUST CORRECT THAT! YOU WILL TELL VULCAN THAT MY BACKGROUND CHECK'S OUT COMPLETELY! AND YOU WILL FORGET THIS CONVERSATION EVER TOOK PLACE!
UNDER-STAND?
I----UNDERSTAND---
GOOD! HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
I--WHAT---
I--WHAT--HAPPENED?
WE WERE TALKING AND YOU SUDDENLY BLACKED OUT! ARE YOU ALRIGHT SQUIRE?
I AM NOW--- MUST BE OVERWORKING--
WE'RE STILL TRYING TO LOCATE THAT ESCAPED PROFESSOR!
OH--- AND WHAT PROGRESS HAVE YOU MADE?
WE HAVE NARROWED IT DOWN TO TWO LOCATIONS AND HAVE DISPATCHED TEAMS TO LOCATE HIM!
EXCELLENT--- IT MAY HAVE TAKEN TWO WEEKS--- BUT YOU'VE DONE AN ADMIRABLE JOB---
"IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME NOW---"
ACCORDING TO OUR CO-ORDINATES- IT'S JUST OVER THIS RANGE CAPTAIN!
I HOPE SO--- OR WE'LL HAVE TO CIRCLE AROUND AGAIN!

THEN AS THE CREW OF THE SILVER STREAK APPROACH THE VALLEY BELOW---
THAT MUST BE IT THERE --- CAPTAIN!
I WOULD ASSUME SO, FOX! OKAY BOOMER ···· VEHICLE LANDING --IF YOU PLEASE!
WILL DO ··· ·· CHIEF!
24
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EASY NOW BOOMER!
YOU'RE A WORRY WART, CAPTAIN! YOU FORGET WHO HELPED PUT THIS BABY TOGETHER!
THERE---NICE AND EASY! HOW'S THAT?
SHAKEN--- BUT NOT STIRRED....
LET'S GO!
THIS CHAP WALLACE MUST LIKE HIS PRIVACY!
REALLY! THIS PLACE IS MILES FROM ANYVILLAGE, NATIVE OR -OTHERWISE!!
WELL HE'S A NOTED RECLUSE!
--LIKES TO BE ALONE WITH HIS WORK, I GUESS!
PROF. WALLACE? THAT'S STRANGE-- THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED!
I DON'T LIKE THIS, CAPTAIN!
PROFESSOR WALLACE---!
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I WOULDN'T EXPECT TO FIND A GREAT MIND HERE!
CAPTAIN! --NOW WHERE DID HE----
OOOOHH!!
HE'S NOT---?
NO--- NOT YET ---BUT HE WILL BE SOON! HE'S QUITE FEVERISH!
I'LL GRAB THE MEDI-KIT FROM THE SILVER---
---STREAK!
WHOOPS! UH, CAP---
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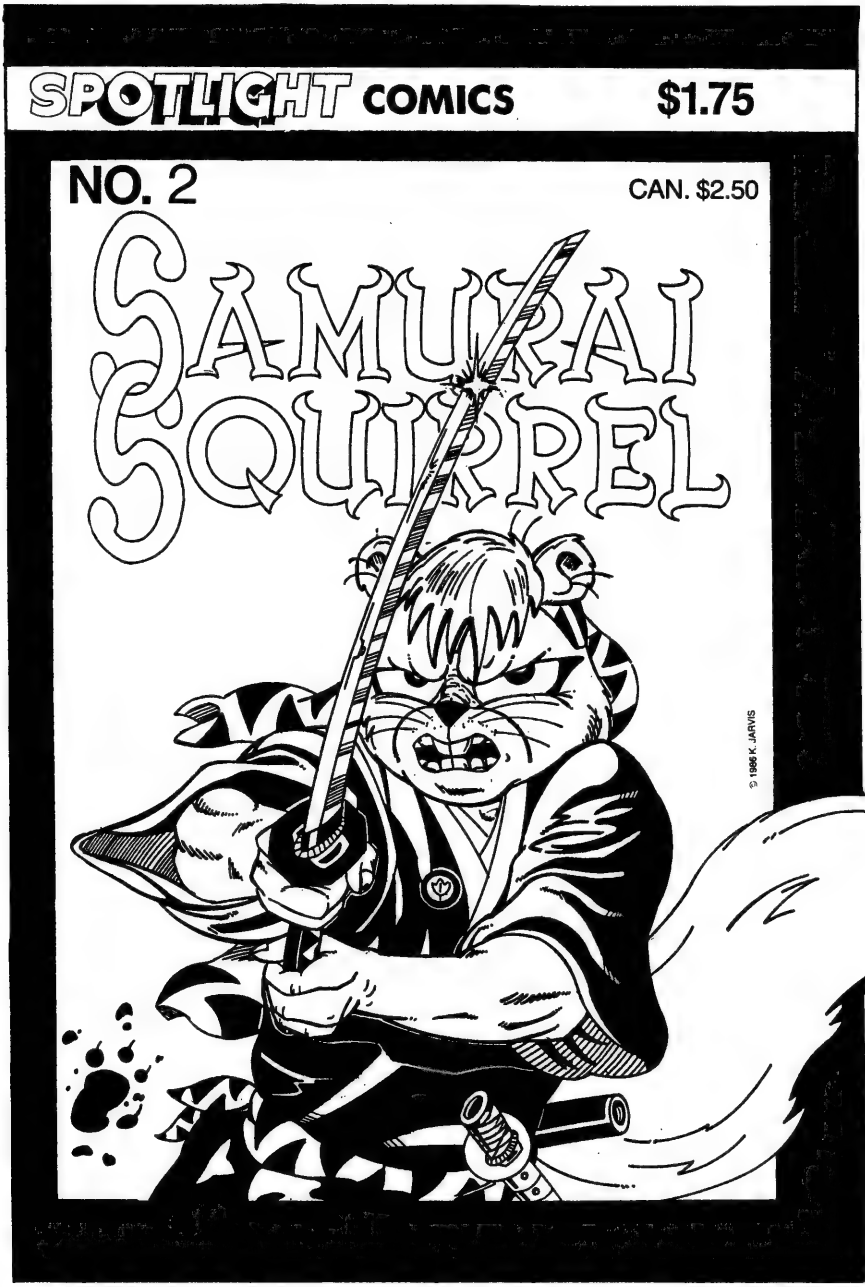
THE PROFESSOR HAS MORE COMPANY!!
BE HERE IN SIXTY DAYS FOR CHAPTER TWO OF "PRELUDE TO DISASTER", IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF A.C.T.I.O.N. FORCE!!

ON SALE NOW!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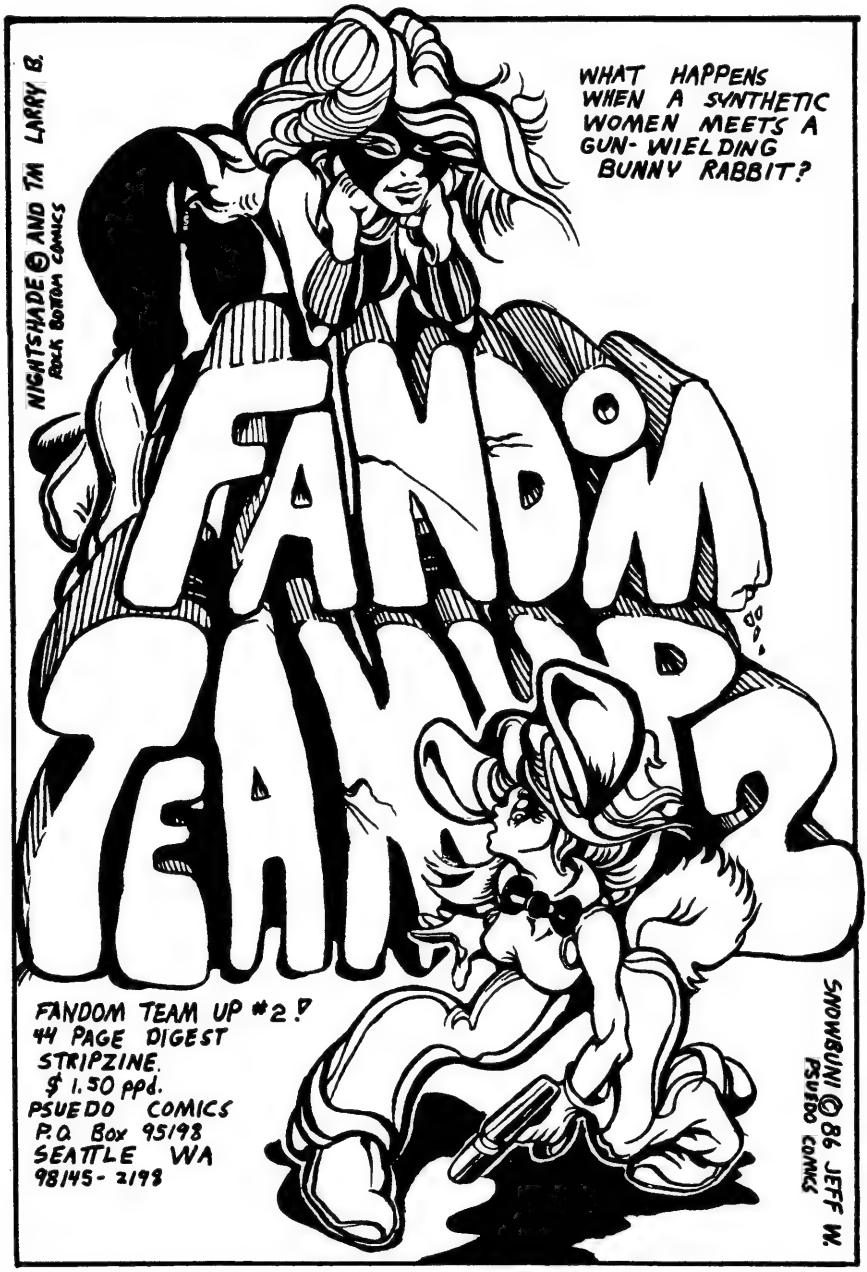
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Follow her, as she travels around the world, with danger, excitement and intrigue her constant companions.

Featuring the talents of Creator/writer/artist Jeff Wood and others.

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MANAGERIE

The first issue of this funny/serious animal anthology features: "We Think . . . Therefore . . . We Are", by Bill Fitts, "Lone Wolf", by Goetz and Barreiro, "Georgey Horsey" by Jeff Wood and Steve Shipley and more.

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COMING IN FEBRUARY FROM

Lightning Comics

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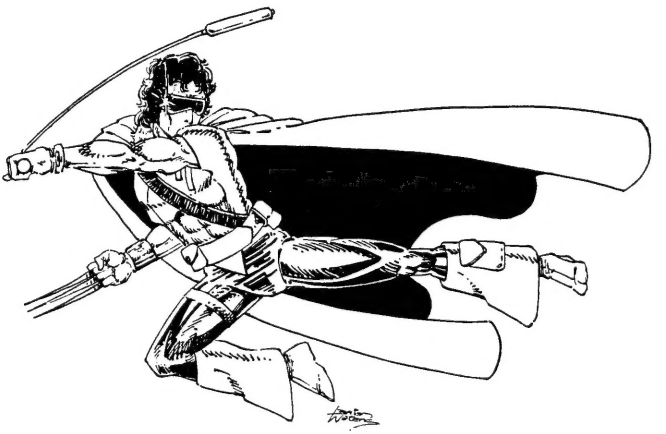
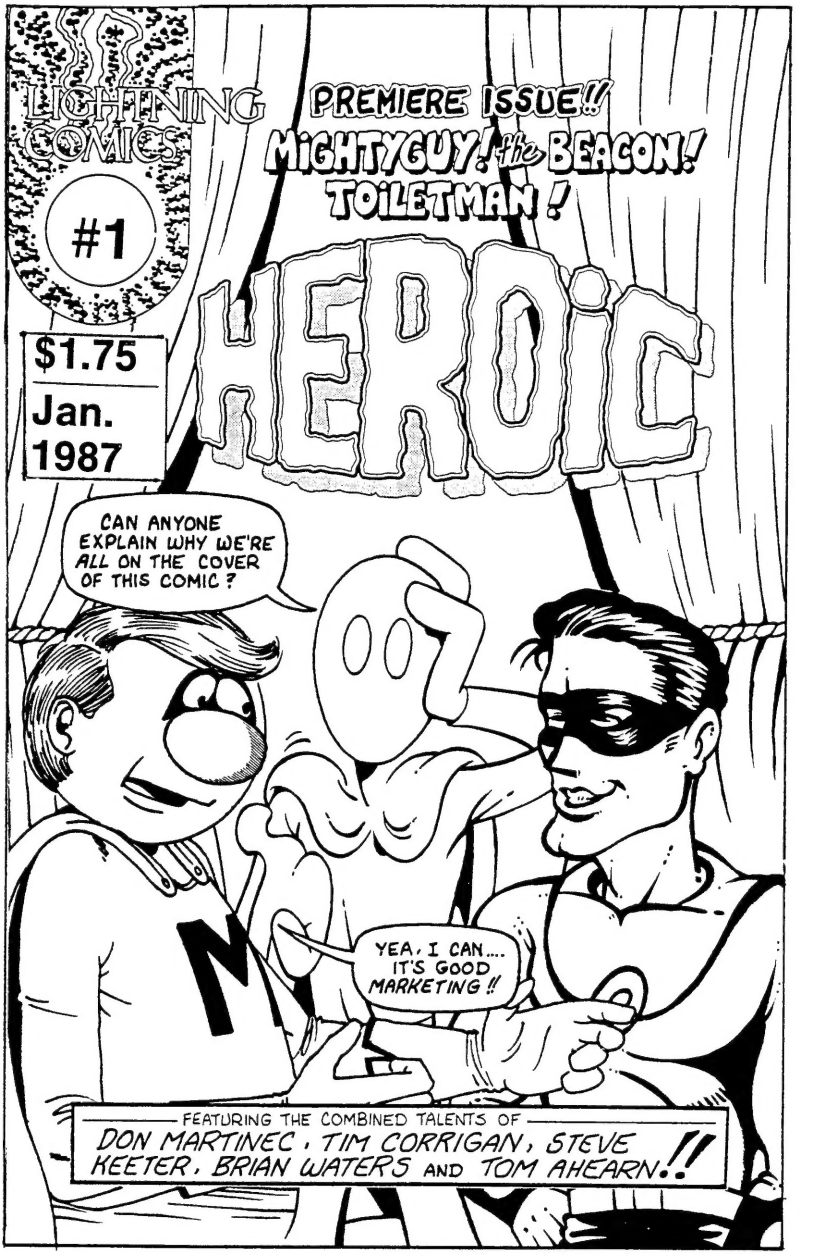


Beginning Next Issue:
LAZERHAWK

ON SALE NOW!


LIGHTNING COMICS
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Jan. 1987
PREMIERE ISSUE!!
MIGHTYGUY! the BEACON! TOILETMAN!
HEROIC
CAN ANYONE EXPLAIN WHY WE'RE ALL ON THE COVER OF THIS COMIC?
YEA, I CAN.... IT'S GOOD MARKETING!!
FEATURING THE COMBINED TALENTS OF
DON MARTINEC, TIM CORRIGAN, STEVE KEETER, BRIAN WATERS AND TOM AHEARN!!

TALON